



## **TEKS UCAPAN**

**TYT TUN DATO' SERI UTAMA AHMAD FUZI BIN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK  
YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI PULAU PINANG**

**MAJLIS PELANCARAN BUKU  
"TIMELESS PENANG : TRADITION IN TRANSITION"**

**PADA 25 MEI 2024 (SABTU) JAM 10.30 PAGI  
DI ANJUNG SERI MUTIARA**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

YBhg. Puan Siti Kamariah binti Subki

Pengurus Besar Yayasan Hasanah,

YBhg. Prof. Dr. Habibah A. Wahab

Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan & Inovasi) Universiti Sains Malaysia,

YBhg. Prof Emerita Dato' Seri Dr. Wazir Jahan Karim,

YBhg. Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Puan Sri-Puan Sri,

YBhg. Dato' Seri-Dato' Seri, Datin Seri-Datin Seri,

YBhg Dato'-Dato', Datin-Datin, Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

Hadirin hadirat yang dihormati sekalian.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera.

1. Terlebih dahulu saya ucapkan ribuan terima kasih dijemput untuk melancarkan Buku 'Timeless Penang : Tradition in Transition', di Anjung Seri Mutiara pada pagi yang mulia ini.

2. Sebagaimana kita sedia maklum, buku ini ialah hasil penulisan individu-individu kenamaan yang berilmu dan pakar dalam bidang masing-masing, mewakili golongan cendekiawan dan intelektual, akademik dan institusi-institusi terkenal termasuk Think-City, Habitat Foundation dan Iskandar Malaysia Studios.

3. Penerbitan buku ini malambangkan kemampuan anak-anak Pulau Pinang menghasilkan penulisan yang berkualiti yang dapat diangkat ke peringkat antarabangsa, setanding dengan buku-buku lain yang ditulis oleh penulis penulis luar negara mengenai negeri ini.

4. YBhg. Prof Emerita Dato' Seri Dr. Wazir Jahan Karim, sebagai penyunting, semasa memilih penulis-penulis berkenaan untuk buku ini, telah memberi peluang kepada pakar-pakar tempatan untuk menonjolkan kehebatan masing-masing menulis dalam media percetakan Berantara-Disiplin.

5. Saya ucapkan syabas kepada YBhg. Prof Emerita Dato' Seri Dr. Wazir Jahan Karim serta rakan beliau, Marcus Langdon, Pengarang, Entrepot Publishers Sdn Bhd kerana mempertengahan sudut 'indigenous' yang sesuai dalam buku ini, yang dapat memperkayakan lagi ilmu sejarah, sosio-budaya, dan sosio-ekonomi Pulau Pinang.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Talking of 'indigeneity', I had requested YBhg. Prof Emerita Dato' Seri Dr. Wazir, at the early stage in the formulation of the book, that I wanted the indigenous voices of the writers to be heard. Such voices should not to simply echo a colonial or post-colonial discourse of Penang as a sovereign state in transformation, but also to dwell into the complexities of conservation of our heritage and traditions in the wake of a fast-growing economy confronted with contestations over land and resources.

7. I am happy to note that this important dimension has been adequately addressed in the Book. The writers have successfully captured the essence of the dynamics of sustainable transformation, both in structure and content, emphasising that heritage and conservation continues to play an important role in the evolution of a state from a mercantile to an industrial and global economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. I also note that all the writers were in agreement that Penang has a captivating geographical and cultural landscape, that development should not be at the expense of uprooting indigenous life-styles along the hillsides, padi plains and coastal shorelines of this beautiful island. We may find it hard to preserve its pristine beauty as the 'Pearl of the Orient' but the state is committed to upholding its promise to protect and preserve those pristine areas and sites which can play an important role in the development of the ecotourism industry in Penang.

9. In this regard, George Town's special status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Penang Hill's status as a UNESCO bio-sphere reserve are two examples of how this has been achieved. I believe more can be achieved if Penang continues to nurture a productive civil society which can lead in moving natural and cultural conservation to greater heights.

10. As one of the leading States in the country, Penang has gone through different phases in the development of its economy. Much has been achieved since independence.

However, more needs to be done to provide a higher standard of living for the people and to promote sustainable economic growth so as to achieve our target of developing a resilient, productive and profitable economy.

11. Various challenges loom ahead. We appreciate the urgent need to keep our young local talent and to prevent them from migrating to more lucrative shores in more advanced nations in Asia and Europe. The high standard of literacy, tertiary education and English in Penang has attracted other advanced nations to tap into our local talent.

12. The State also appreciates the need to develop its own digital and creative economy, at par if not higher than our wealthier neighbouring countries. We believe that the loss of human talent is a loss of invaluable human resources which takes decades to nurture. Although this is an issue that should be addressed at the national level, the State too has an important role to play in developing its own local talent for the benefit of the country.

Ladies and gentleman,

13. This book is an eye-opener to the growing issue of sustainability, and its sub-title, 'tradition in transition', captures the essence of Penang's future. There is a pressing need to conserve and nurture what is given, in natural, cultural and human resources and, at the same time, to choose a path of growth which can generate new wealth for the people, in accordance with the needs of all generations, in particular, our youth, which forms our most productive work force today.

14. In this regard, I am confident, stable governance, matched with new opportunities for talent building and job creation, against a backdrop of consensual social policies, aided by a mature civil society, would lead Penang into an era of rapid progress, without marginalising any ethnic or minority community.

15. In conclusion, let me record my profound thanks and appreciation to Prof Dato' Seri Wazir Jahan Karim and her able team for working hard over the last several months to produce this book.

I am also grateful to Marcus Langdon of Entreport Publishers for his collaboration in undertaking this challenging exercise, and last but not least to Yayasan Hasanah and Universiti Sains Malaysia for their generous support in covering most of the costs relating to the production and printing of the book.

16. It is my sincere hope that more of this type of book will be written and published for the benefit of our readers.

17. Finally, I look forward to showcasing this splendid work to all interested readers dedicated to learning and understanding more about our beloved state of Penang.

Thank you and

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.